

NEWS & VIEWS

May 1, 2022

Volume 21 No.5

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN— *The gift of...*



After serving in a pastoral role for several years (15+) here at DMC, I felt the need for a break, especially in light of the pandemic and our recent move to Hellertown. My goals focused on slowing down, exploring what God is doing in our new community and how God might be leading me to be a part of bringing the kingdom. I needed time to listen and seek God's guidance for my work, while at the same time being refreshed in my spirit and body.

Tuesdays and Fridays were my "sabbatical days" while I continued my pastoral work at Dock Woods Community the other days of the week. On Tuesdays, I chose to "fast" from driving, choosing instead to walk wherever I needed to go. I never took the same path, but the Holy Spirit led me all over town, where I met people in stores, at the library, the caretaker at the Catholic Church, on the rail trail, etc. I tried the public transit system and rode the bus to Bethlehem and noticed the waiting time needed to travel this way. It highlighted the fast pace of our society and the privilege I have of having a car to drive where and when I want to go.

I also took the opportunity to visit other churches for Sunday worship. I worshiped in various settings (urban and suburban) with different denominations

(charismatic, evangelical, large and small), but all Christ-centered. It really gave me a new appreciation for the many expressions of faithful witness to the gospel. Visiting all these churches also gave me a great appreciation for our own congregation, where I have trusted relationships and can be encouraged in my walk with Jesus.

I did also leave time for fun in my sabbatical. I took guitar lessons at a local music store and am enjoying this hobby that gives me great joy and delight. I purposely invited the women in my neighborhood to a spring tea to build connections with them. Wow, was that fun, laughing together and hearing their stories!

Jesus sent his disciples out two by two to the villages to proclaim and demonstrate the kingdom of God. This idea became more clear to me as I spent time walking, worshiping and listening during my sabbatical. God wants us to speak about his love and demonstrate it. In the Lord's prayer we pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." When we pray that, we become part of the answer to that prayer through our words and actions.

To that end, I would like to pray with you in your home and neighborhood to invite God to show you how his kingdom is coming where you live. How are you a part of that as you proclaim and demonstrate God's love? Please reach out to me if you want to pray together. I am available on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays to spend an hour or so with you where you live, either inside or outside prayer walking if you like.

-Pastor Sandy Landes, Prayer Minister

COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Cindy Strauch	5/3
Samuel Reiff	5/4
MaryLee Chittick	5/6
Angel Mejias	5/8
Bill Fennell	5/9
Kendrick Garrido	5/13
Jennifer Gidley	5/13
Michael Gourley	5/19
Lois Myers	5/24
Bonnie Leatherman	5/26
Sara Faye Moyer	5/27
Sally Landis	5/31
Garry Landis	6/1

Anniversaries

Mike & Coleen Ryan	5/9
John & Sally Landis	5/26

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

*Open the first and third Saturdays of each month,
7:00-10:00pm*

May 7 - FITZ. This is the first appearance at Karen's Place for FITZ, a band from Central New Jersey

May 21 - Joe Miralles Trio. Joe Miralles is a singer songwriter from the Philadelphia Area. He sings, plays guitar, drums, bass and keyboard and has released 5 albums.



CARE TEAM REPORT

The Care Team met on Monday, April 11 via zoom. Our Biblical focus was Acts 1, reading how the apostles discerned the Spirit's leading for ongoing leadership. They spent time in prayer waiting on God and trusted the Spirit. We as a care team are also discerning how God might be leading to bring a new member to our group. We identified some important qualities needed for this role: committed, trustworthy and able to honor confidentiality. We invite the congregation to submit names or speak to Randy or Sandy if they feel called to serve on the Care Team. A fuller job description is posted across from the mailboxes. Please join in prayer for this need.

As we oversee the Compassion Fund, we are grateful for God's leading and the generosity of the congregation to provide financial support for various needs.

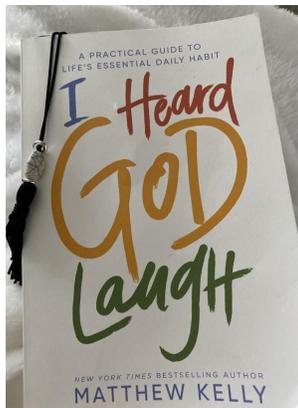
We closed with prayer for several individuals and families in our congregation. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, May 10, at 7:00 pm.

-Sandy Landes for the Care Team: Randy Heacock, Freida Myers and Robin Miller



FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY

I Heard God Laugh by Matthew Kelly has been donated by Joyce Zuzack. It was a favorite book of her husband Dave's. Its subtitle is "a practical guide to life's essential daily habit."



Kelly was a teenager when a family friend encouraged him to pray every day. He tended to ask God to fix a problem he had. Then he stumbled on the question, "God, what do you think I should do?" One day his family friend picked him up to go to a basketball game. They stopped at a church where his friend read a scripture and then encouraged Kelly to converse with God about it. The first scripture was Matthew 5:1-12. Subsequent references continued in Matthew 5-7. Kelly credits his friend with "teaching him to pray." He challenges the reader to learn also. I know why Dave Zuzack liked this book so much!

Do you have a book handy for a rainy day? Check out one or more of the treasures in our church library.

Recently a book about birds was checked out. Others are waiting for you. Please let me know if you have any new books to suggest.

-Freida Myers, Librarian



A SPECIAL EASTER SEASON

This year our Good Friday service was held outside around a fire pit near the pavilion, on a chilly, breezy evening. We recalled that Peter was also warming himself near a fire the night he denied Jesus. It was a time for sharing together our thoughts on the events of that night.

Easter Sunday began with breakfast in the fellowship hall, followed by the service, with special music, an inspiring sermon, and communion. It was a grand time of celebration.



From Susie Churchmouse:

That Easter breakfast sure was a treat!

So many crumbs from the cakes and sweet rolls, so many pieces of fruit.

And, oh, the bits of cheese, bacon and egg from the casseroles.

I didn't need to eat the rest of the day...or most of the next.

I wouldn't mind if the church had breakfast every week...

Or at least once a month. What do you say?



Deadline for submitting items for the June News & Views: **May 31**

PARTING THOUGHT:

Lord, open thou my eyes, that I may see thee,
Lord, open thou my lips, that I may praise thee,
Lord, open thou my heart, that I may love thee,
serve thee with joy, fear none above thee.

-John Rutter from Lancelot Andrews, 1555 1626

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